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and children

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- Vegetables with Parmesan cheese



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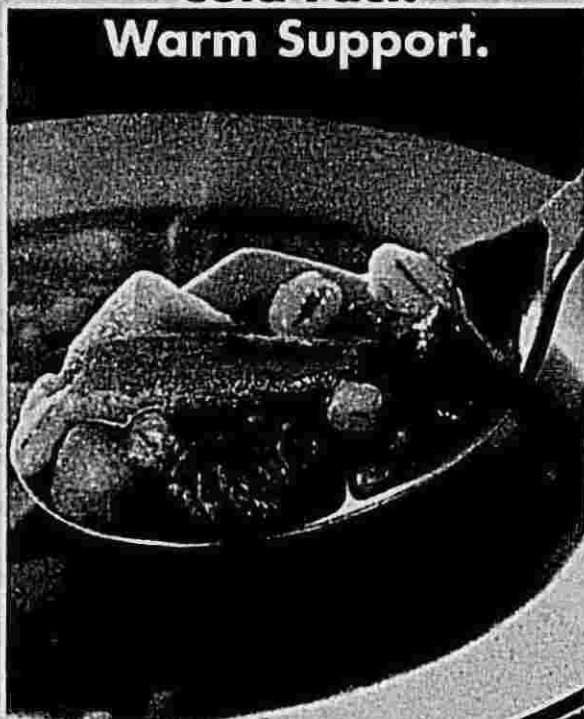
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Ask American Profile



Q What can you tell me about Bradley Cole on *The Guiding Light*? I know he played Prince Richard Winslow from 1999 to 2002 and left the show and came back as a different character, Jeffrey O'Neill. He is a phenomenal actor and very handsome.
—Carly C., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Born and raised in California, Cole, 48, studied business and drama at Pepperdine University and played college basketball until an injury forced him to quit. He left his first *Guiding Light* role in 2002 when his contract expired and he felt "the character had run its course." When producers of the daytime drama approached him the following year about playing a different character, he accepted. Married and the father of a son who'll turn 1 in July, Cole also is a singer who released his fourth CD, *A Human Thing*, last year.

Q Is Mariska Hargitay on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* the daughter of Jayne Mansfield and Mickey Hargitay, and was she mauled as a child by a wild animal at Jungleland in Thousand Oaks, Calif.?
—M. Filippiere, Yreka, Calif.

Yes and no. The *Law & Order* star, 43, is indeed the daughter of the late sex symbol and her actor/body-builder husband. But it was Mariska's brother, 6-year-old Zoltan, who was mauled by a lion during a freak accident in 1966 at Jungleland while his mother was doing a photo shoot at the now-defunct animal park. Mariska and Zoltan both survived a horrific car crash a year later in which Mansfield and two other adults were killed. Hargitay has a zigzag scar on the side of her head from the accident, but she doesn't remember anything about it.



Mentalist Kreskin

Q Whatever happened to the mentalist called the Amazing Kreskin?
—E. McNay, Tempe, Ariz.

George Kresge, also known as "The Amazing Kreskin," is constantly on the road and in the air, performing some 300 shows a year. "I love my work and I've been blessed," says the New Jersey resident, 72, who stresses that he is not a psychic or fortuneteller, but rather a "mentalist" with a special gift to read the thoughts of others. "I've been doing this for a living since I was 11 years old." He has a new book, *Mental Power Is Real*, available through his website, www.kreskin.com.

Q Whatever became of the boy who played "Dueling Banjos" in the movie *Deliverance*?
—Ivan Pettit, Franklin, Pa.

Georgia native Billy Redden didn't have any speaking lines in the 1972 classic *Deliverance*, but he sure made quite an impression as the banjo-playing hillbilly kid who visually imprinted the film's musical signature. Redden, then 16, was selected from his Rabun County school for the part. But he didn't actually play the banjo, nor could he convincingly pretend to pick one. For the movie's "Dueling Banjos" scene, a real musician crouched behind him and reached around, and the camera framed the shot to make it appear as if Redden was playing. Now 51, Redden went on to appear in one other movie (he had a bit part in *Big Fish* in 2003), and today he works at a Wal-Mart in Clayton, Ga., not far from where he grew up.



Billy Redden was the "boy with the banjo" in *Deliverance*.



Law & Order's
Mariska Hargitay

Q I remember a 1940s movie called *F.O.B. Detroit*, starring Albert Dekker and Joel McCrea, that was filmed in one of our auto plants. I can't find anything about it, however, and my friends think I'm "slipping a clutch."
—Gry Bacheland, Rochester Hills, Mich.

Your memory "clutch" is in great shape! The 1941 film you recall was *Reaching for the Sun*, but the novel on which the movie was based was indeed titled *F.O.B. Detroit*, by Michigan native Wessel Smither. The movie, a boisterous comedy about a country bumpkin who moves to the Motor City to work in a manufacturing plant, steered clear of the book's grittier realities of factory life.

* Cover photo by Mike Ross

■ Would you like to know more about your favorite celebrity or public figure?

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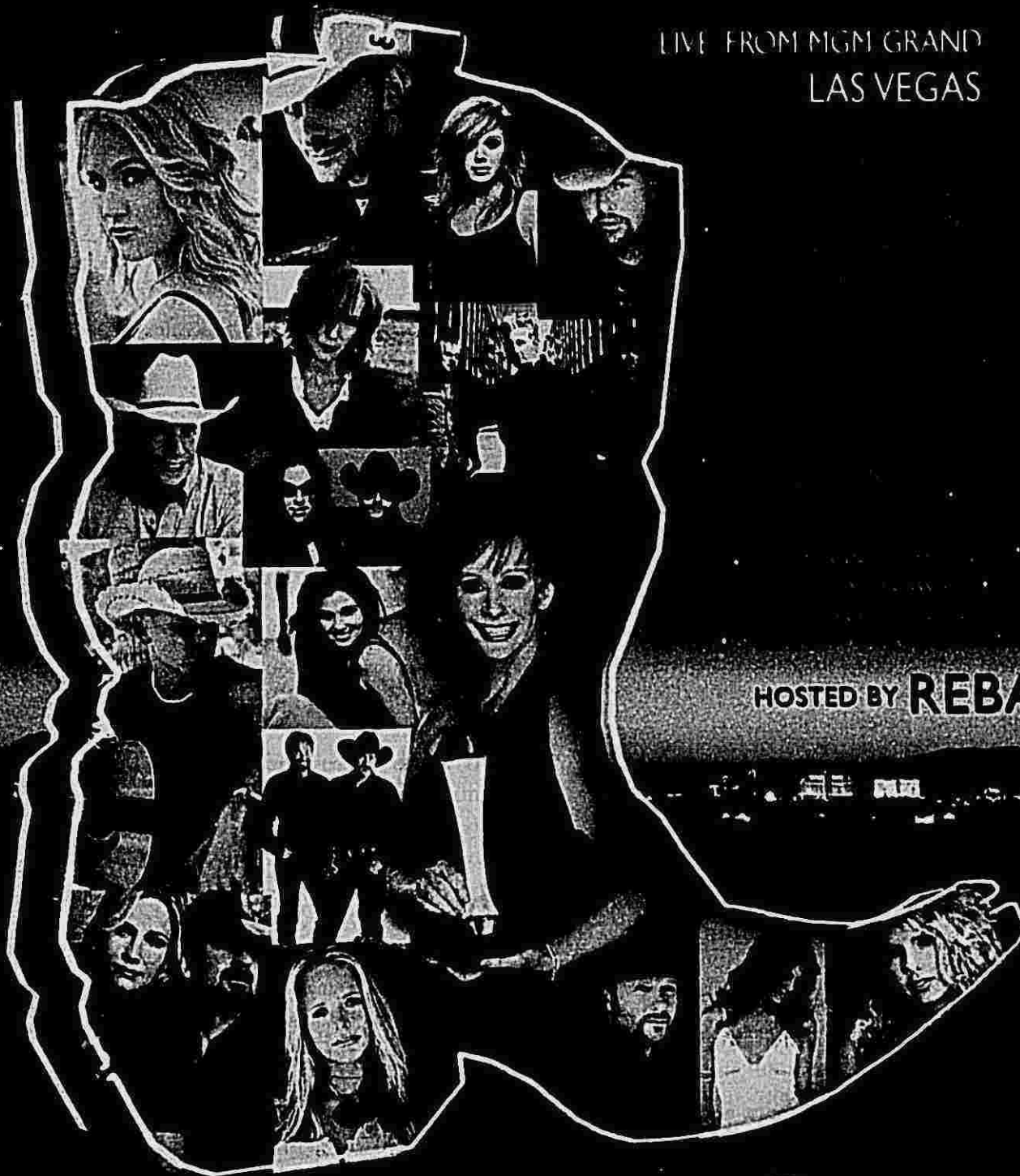
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Fostering the Future

Dozens of family photos from vacations, birthdays and graduations adorn the buffet in Pat Robinson's dining room in Stratford, Conn. (pop. 49,976), where the 62-year-old foster mother has welcomed children into her heart and home for 15 years.

"She treats us like we're hers," says Quanitra McCray, 18, who has lived with Robinson since 2002. "If I was still with my mom, I'd probably be on the streets right now." McCray's biological mother is in prison and her father is deceased.

At 15, McCray became pregnant and missed part of her junior year, but Robinson insisted that she continue her studies at home. When McCray was rushed to the emergency room and went into early labor, her foster mother held her hand. Together, they kept a hospital vigil as baby Laniya, who weighed 2 pounds, 3 ounces, grew stronger.

There was never a doubt—at least as far as Robinson was concerned—that McCray would graduate from high school and attend college. "She pushed me," McCray says. "She'd get me up in the morning and get me to school."

McCray graduated from Bunnell High School in Stratford last year, and today studies criminal justice at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport and works part time at a department store.

McCray appreciates how Robinson guided her and helped her gain confidence. "She'd have me take a city bus to the baby's doctor appointments to learn my way around. And she taught me how to budget money and put me on a schedule. I'm very grateful."



Robinson shares a laugh with her children before lunch.

Motherly advice

Robinson, who works part time at a local law office, always has provided hot meals and motherly advice to troubled kids. When her two biological sons, Ernest, now 44, and Kareem, 33, were growing up, their friends knew they could depend on her to listen.

"In order for kids to succeed, there usually is one instrumental person who believes in them and is a mentor," says



by MARI
AT
Contributor Editor

Pat Robinson and her foster family—(from left) Lydie, Latasha, Laniya and Quanitra—at their home in Stratford, Conn.

Kareem, who owns a security company based in Bridgeport. "In a lot of different cases, Mom made that difference."

In 1992, after her sons were grown and she had retired from a management position at IBM, Robinson's home was quiet and she missed having a household full of kids. So, Robinson took classes to become a foster parent for Casey Family Services, headquartered in nearby New Haven. Since then, she has fostered eight children full time and provided short-term care for many others. Today, her family includes McCray and Laniya, 2, Latasha, 17, and former foster children Lydie and Willie Vainqueur, ages 27 and 26.

"She is my mom," says Lydie, who was placed in Robinson's home in 1996. "I could not pick a better one." Lydie was 15 and her brother, Willie, 14, when they moved in. Natives of the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, Lydie and Willie spoke only French when they arrived in the United States. As with many foster children, some details of their family history are sketchy and others are best forgotten.

"I'll never know the story of how my mother ended up here," says Lydie, who was 4 when her mother came to the

United States. "When she knew she was dying, she sent for us. My mother brought us to this country for a reason. She wanted us to experience better opportunities."

Just 14, Lydie nursed her mom and ran the household. "Whatever English I could put together, I used. It was a survival thing."

When her mother's health deteriorated, Lydie informed a social worker at school, and she and her brother were placed in foster care with Robinson. Two weeks later, their mother died.

For Lydie, the biggest adjustment was learning to be a child. "Lydie was tough," Robinson says. "She was accustomed to mothering her brother. Once she let me be the mother, she enjoyed being a child herself."

Beyond loving children, a foster parent needs vision, Robinson says. "You have to look beyond what you see when that child walks through the door."

Adds Lydie, "She had vision for me when I didn't have it in myself." Today, the college graduate works as a senior buyer for Brooklace, a paper products manufacturer in West Haven, Conn.

(Continued on page 6)

"Breakthrough Discovery To Grow Beautiful Nails"

Even if you have never been able to grow strong beautiful nails before

By Jana Lynn

You too can grow strong beautiful nails with Trind® Natural Nail-Repair. I guarantee it!

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Sonja Strickland
Kingsland, Georgia



"I never want to be without your Trind Natural Nail-Repair again! I used it even though I didn't really believe it could make a difference in my splitting fingernails. Ashamed of them, I'd keep my hands as hidden as I could when with friends.

"In just a few weeks I am really happily wearing pretty rings on my lovely nails—my very own!"

Jackie Klinsky
Watsonville, California



"After exhausting so many products and methods to help my splitting, peeling and non-growing nails, I felt I had nothing to lose and decided to try the product. I'm so glad I did! Believe me, it works!"

"My husband had two split nails that would not grow out and he too, decided to try TRIND. Now he adds his voice to mine, 'It really works!' I'm amazed at the condition and growth of my nails. It's unbelievable!"

Nikki & Addison Fritts
Delray Beach, Florida



"I have always had trouble with my nails splitting and peeling. But with your Nail-Repair the difference in them is amazing.

"Over time I have tried everything trying to get my nails to grow. This is the first thing I have ever used that actually did what it said it would."

Wanda L. Shults
Okemah, Oklahoma

"I'll admit to being skeptical. After all, over the years I had tried them all (Sally Hansen, Barielle, Nailtique, etc.)

and nothing helped my thin weak nails that split and cracked before they even reached the end of my nail beds.

"TRIND was going to be my last attempt to grow my own nails before giving in to the expense and risks of artificial ones. Imagine my utter surprise and joy to find TRIND works where all others have failed.

"This is the most wonderful and amazing product! At last I can enjoy the beautiful nails that before I had only been able to envy on other women."

Michelle Hogan
Harvard, Massachusetts

"I just can't stop looking at my beautiful nails!"

"I have NEVER in my life been able to grow, sustain and maintain such healthy, strong and LONG nails! They were paper-thin after having acrylics removed and the regularly recommended products did not help me at all!"

"I am a TV host of my own show called 'Vee on Venice' and needless to say I need to look my very best from head to toe for my viewers.

"So now I finally feel fully confident that my nails will film beautifully."

Vee V. Garry
Venice, Florida, Channel 21

"I stopped using acrylics but my nails looked terrible, so for two years I sat on my hands to hide my nails whenever I went out. Then I tried Trind Natural-Nail Repair and it seemed like my nails became long and strong almost overnight.

"Now people think my natural nails are acrylics. Every time I go to my manicurist she just shakes her head. She can't believe how well it's working."

Florence Atkinson
Houston, Texas





Mitchell and Myra Magee of Angie, La., have adopted six of their foster children since 1994.

(Continued from page 4)

Moms and dads needed

Across the United States, about 513,000 children are in foster care because of parental neglect or abuse. About 140,000 foster families provide homes until the children can be reunited with their biological families or placed in a permanent home through adoption.

"There just aren't enough foster parents," says Marvin Ferneau, president of the National Foster Parent Association, headquartered in Gig Harbor, Wash. "Some kids are living in group homes and shelters."

Marvin and his wife, Melody, of Montezuma, Iowa (pop. 1,440), became foster parents in 1991 when their biological daughters, Melissa, 31, and Christine, 29, were teens. Since then, they've cared for 30 teenage girls—some for a few days and others for a few years—and adopted two foster children: Neisha, now 25, and Kelly, 22.

"Everybody needs a mom and dad to come home to," Marvin says.

Home at last

A child longs for the security of a permanent, loving home, says Myra Magee, 58, of Angie, La. (pop. 240), who understands the heartbreak of a broken home. As children, both she and her husband, Mitchell, were shuttled among caregivers.

After their own five children were grown, the Magees became foster parents in 1994. "I wanted to make a difference," Myra says. "It was just in my heart."

The couple since have adopted six of their foster children: Sabrina, 11; Omeisha, 12; Richard, 12; Raven, 12; Raechelle, 13; and Calakeisha, 14. The children sing in the choir at local Center Baptist Church and most play instruments in their school bands.

Mitchell, 58, a self-employed logger, and Myra, a stay-at-home mom, budget carefully. Their home had to be gutted after Hurricane Katrina and has been rebuilt as far as the insurance coverage would stretch. Although most of their belongings were destroyed, the family returned home last September before school started.

"We don't have fancy stuff, but nobody goes lacking," Myra says.

Best of all, the Magee children have parents and a permanent home. "I made a commitment to my babies that they won't have to move again from home to home," Myra adds.

Forever family

Foster parenting is hard work, but the reward is to better the life of a child, says Donna Coraluzzo of Dover, N.H. (pop. 26,884). She and her husband, Mike, have one biological son, Anthony, 10, and have been foster parents for three years to Kayla, 15.

"It's our job—all of our jobs—to take care of these children," says Donna, 38, program director at the Dover Children's Home, a residence for troubled adolescents. Mike, 39, is a state trooper, and both he and

(Continued on page 11)

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Donna and Mike
Coraluzzo with
Kayla and Anthony
in Dover, N.H.

Courtesy of Donna Coraluzzo

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Handy Hints



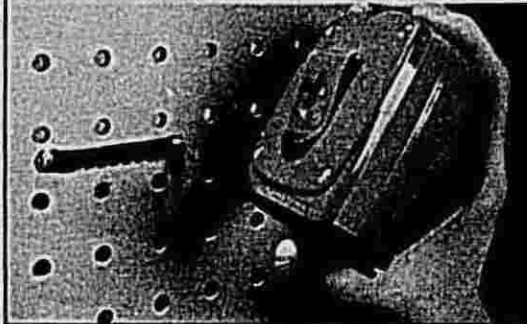
Extended work top

If you like your portable workbench but sometimes need a larger work surface, here's what to do. Screw a 2x4 to a 4-by-4-foot sheet of 1/2-inch plywood, then just clamp the 2x4 onto the workbench and you're ready to go. And since the extra work surface is fairly slim, it stores easily.

Helpful Tips for Around the House

Tape measure holder

If you don't have a specific place to store your tape measure and can't seem to find it when you need it, solve the problem by screwing a large picture hanger plate onto the wall behind your workbench. Then, hook the tape measure onto the hanger when you're finished using it and you'll have no trouble finding it at all.



Broken glass cleanup

Use a lint roller to clean up small shards of broken glass. After picking up the large pieces by hand, roll the tacky tape of the lint roller around to pick up the smaller ones. It just might save you from a painful glass splinter in the bottom of your foot.



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Clothespin staple holder

Grabbing and nailing electrical cable staples can be hard on your fingers. Make the job easier by using a clothespin to grab the nails for the staple. Hold the pin in position and hammer the staple until it's set. Remove the pin and drive the staple home.





Nonslip mower treads

Retread old, bald lawn mower tires with a knobby bicycle tire for extra traction on hilly terrain. Cut four strips long enough to wrap around your tires. Remove the sidewall with scissors and secure the new tread every 2 inches with a pair of 1-inch sheet metal screws.



Hang-it-high helper

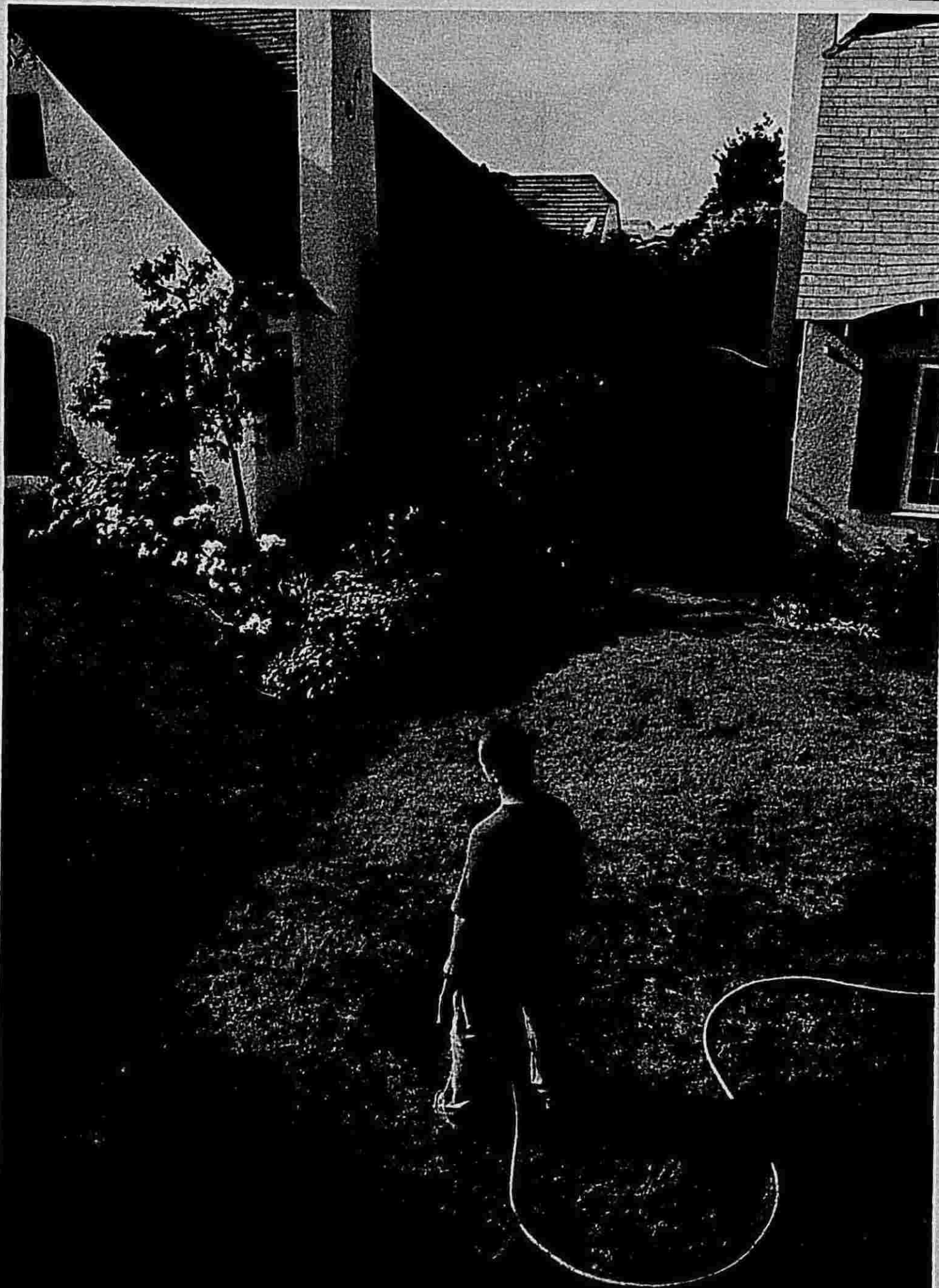
With this extension pole, you can hang objects in high, hard-to-reach areas. Attach a spring clamp to the end of a plastic drain pipe, and use the end of the clamp as a hook to lift items on or off a hook or nail.



Helpful hints researched and provided by:

The Family Handyman
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RECIPE: Five-a-Day Vegetables with Parmesan Cheese



American Profile



Mary H. Hammann Waggoner, III

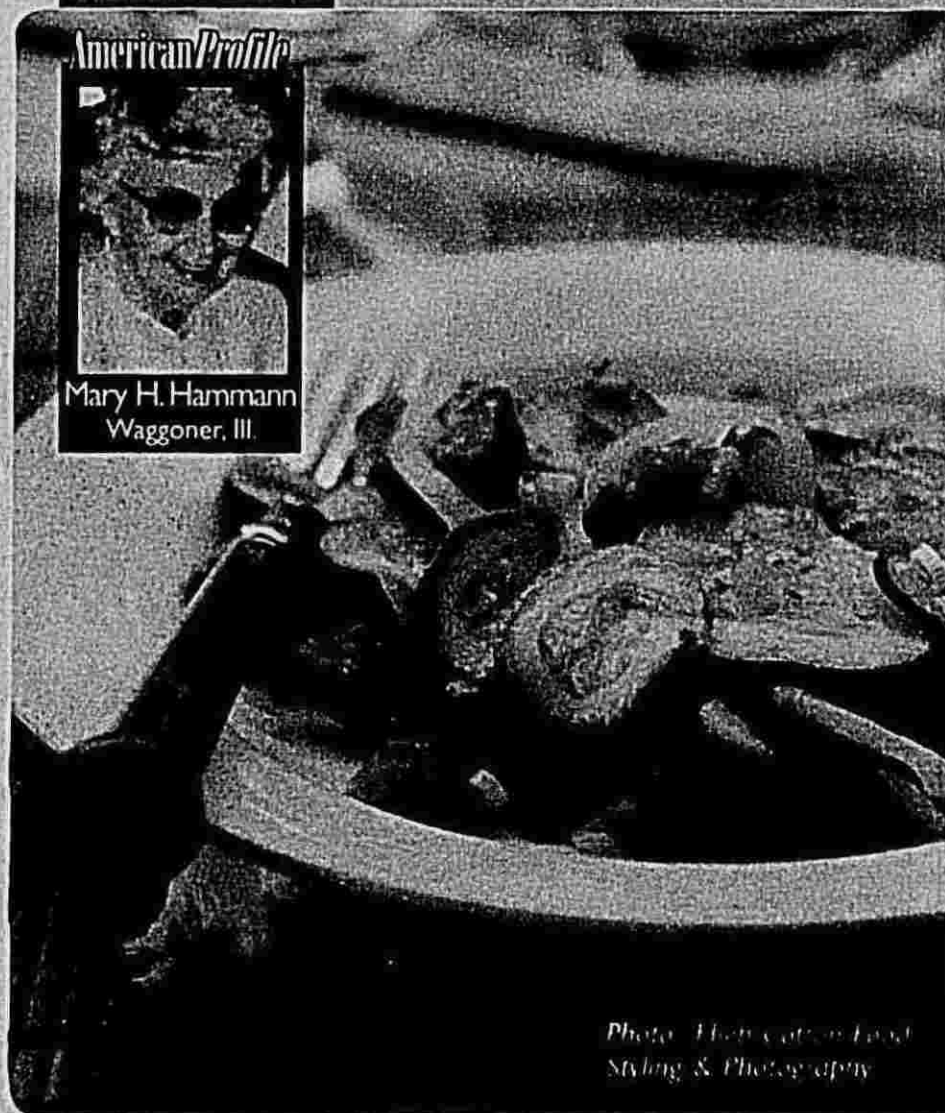


Photo: Electronic Food Styling & Photography

Five-a-Day Vegetables with Parmesan Cheese

- 4 cups thinly sliced zucchini
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 green or yellow bell pepper, cut into strips
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 cup diced tomatoes, seeds removed
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1. Combine zucchini, onion, bell pepper, carrot, water, butter, salt, pepper and Italian seasoning in a large skillet. Cover and cook 1 minute. Uncover and cook, turning with a wide spatula, until vegetables are crisp-tender, 5 to 10 minutes.

2. Add tomatoes and Parmesan cheese. Toss and cook another minute. Serves 8 to 10.

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The Diabetes Healer Drug Companies Want to Keep Secret

Doctors have been trained to prescribe drugs to treat diabetes. It's no wonder that sales of diabetes drugs totaled \$8.1 billion dollars last year. The trouble with drugs is they treat the *symptoms* of diabetes...not the underlying *cause*. Diabetes drugs can also have serious side effects and increase risk factors for other diseases.

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- The most important mineral for diabetics
- What natural supplement is good for both blood pressure and blood sugar
- The liquid supplement that reduces triglycerides

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(Continued from page 6)

Donna see firsthand the need for safe homes for children.

"Kayla was gaunt and had cold sores from stress when we got her," Donna recalls. The oldest of four children, Kayla had cared for her siblings when her mother left them unattended for days. Both of her birth parents have spent time in prison.

Today, the bubbly teen bounds up the stairs to show off her bedroom, furnished with a vanity brimming with perfume bottles, makeup and jewelry. Nearby is a cluster of track trophies. The honor student is involved in gymnastics, drama, chorus and photography.

Being placed in foster care completely changed Kayla's life. "Now I feel like I can have a life and not have to make everyone else a life," she says.

Earlier this year, Kayla received thrilling news. "I get to change my last name to Coraluzzo," she says, beaming.

Donna hugs her daughter. "We're a forever family," she says. "When we meet new people, we say, 'this is our son' and 'this is our daughter.'" ★

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ILLINOIS—In 1930, Luther Replogle began assembling globes in his Chicago apartment and marketing them as reference tools for homes as well as classrooms. Today, Replogle Globes is the "global" leader and is located in Broadview (pop. 8,264).

INDIANA—During the summer, hundreds of boaters drop their anchors in Lake Wawasee in Syracuse (pop. 3,038) for a boat-in Sunday worship service offered by local clergymen. An offering is collected in fishnets and distributed to local churches and charities.

IOWA—Founded in 1849, Winterset (pop. 4,768) might have been named Summerset or Somerset until someone pointed out the freezing weather and suggested the more appropriate Winterset, according to local lore.

KANSAS—At 95, Nola Ochs is a senior at Fort Hays State University in Hays (pop. 20,013) and if she completes her degree this month, will become the world's oldest college graduate. Ochs isn't planning to join the job market, but simply enjoys learning.

MICHIGAN—Wayne County is the state's oldest county with settlers as early as 1701 and incorporation in 1815 with Detroit as the county seat.

MINNESOTA—Music legend Bob Dylan, 65, made history as the oldest person to launch an album in the No. 1 spot with *Modern Times*, which sold 192,000 copies in its first week last September. Dylan was born Robert Zimmerman in 1941 in Duluth.

MISSOURI—In 1954, brothers Henry and Richard Bloch planned to scrap their sideline tax service, but first ran a newspaper ad featuring a man behind an eight ball with the message: "Taxes, \$5." The promotion attracted so many customers that the Blochs dropped their other bookkeeping services and began offering only tax preparation. H&R Block was launched in 1955 in Kansas City.

NEBRASKA—More than 5,000 pieces of Red Wing pottery, from cookie jars to bean pots, are displayed at The Schleich Red Wing Pottery Museum in Lincoln. Jerry and Louise Schleich opened the museum in 2001 to display their personal collection.

NORTH DAKOTA—When Valley City (pop. 6,826) replaced its Rainbow Bridge in 2004, the city chose the same 1920s concrete arch design used by builder James Marsh, despite the bridge's complexity and expense, to preserve the town's beauty and history.

OHIO—Held every year since 1823, the Great Geauga County Fair in Burton (pop. 1,450) is one of the oldest agricultural fairs in the nation. The 1889 Domestic Arts Hall and 1890 Flower Hall on the fairgrounds are on the National Register of Historic Places.

SOUTH DAKOTA—Jason Besmer of Custer (pop. 1,860) reeled in a state-record tiger muskellunge in 2003 at Lake Sharpe near Fort Pierre (pop. 1,991). The fish weighed 37 pounds, 7 ounces.

WISCONSIN—In Lake Tomahawk (pop. 1,160), a familiar sound each summer is the crack of the bat and the flap-flap of snowshoes as the hitter runs to first base. Since 1961, the town has played the quirky game and calls itself the "Snowshoe Baseball Capital." ★

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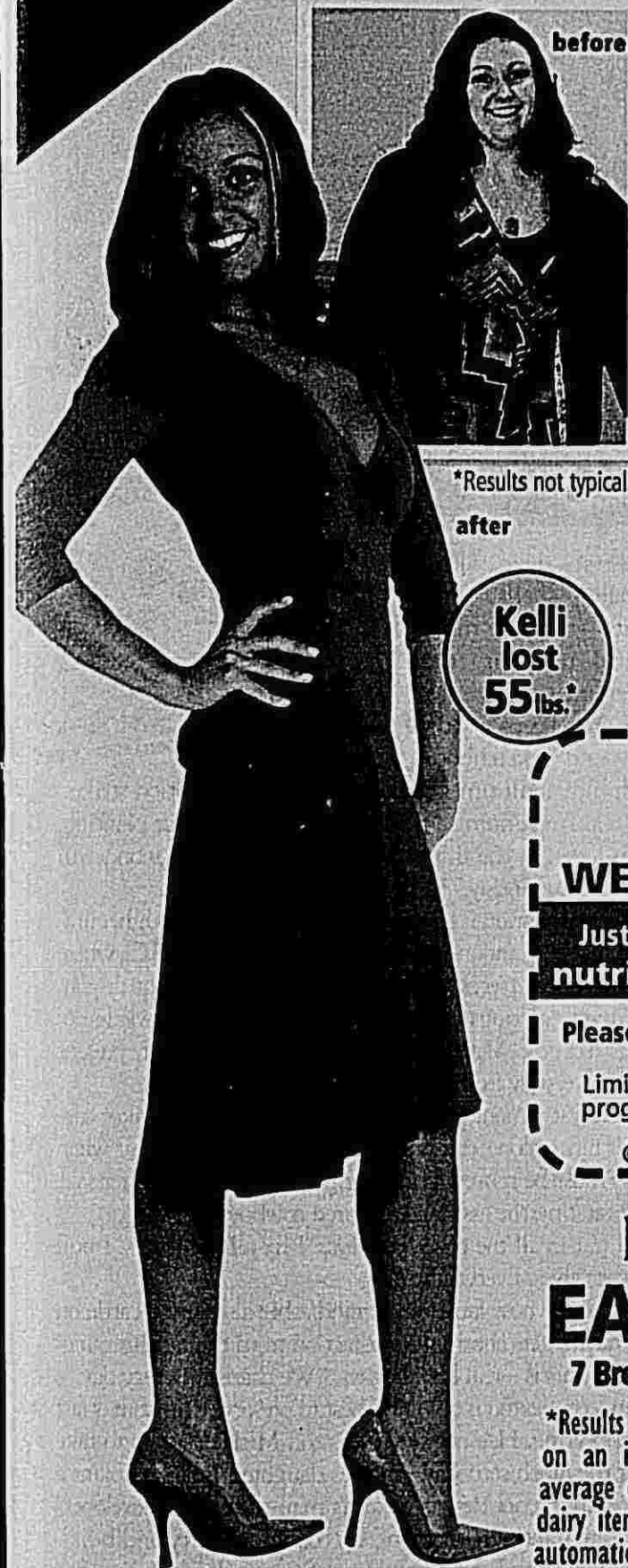
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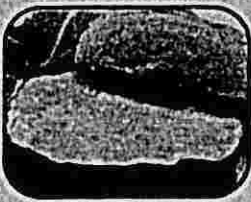
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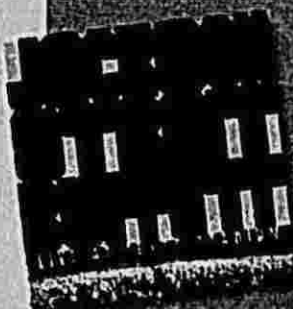
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American Artisan

by M.B. ROBERTS

Painting the Ranching Life

Rancher artist Sean Sexton carries a sketchbook, below, to capture scenes from his farming lifestyle.

Sean Sexton couldn't choose between working the land and being an artist, so he decided to do both.

"The two are so connected," says Sexton, 52, who owns and operates a 600-acre Angus-Brahman cattle ranch in Vero Beach, Fla. (pop. 17,209).

Sexton makes half of his living from his ranch and half from his paintings, which are inspired by his rustic ranching lifestyle. "I'm not dabbling in cattle or dabbling in art," Sexton says. "I'm dead serious about both."

As a cattleman with 300 head of livestock, however, Sexton must set priorities. During fall calving season, for instance, when he has to catch and tag every calf and plant forage crops, it's difficult to find time for art. So he seizes other opportunities to put paint on canvas, such as on a chilly morning before dawn. As his wife Sharon, 52, and his son Michael, 18, sleep, Sexton dons his cowboy hat, pulls on a pair of well-worn work boots and walks across his sprawling back yard, past a cluster of swaying palm trees, to a nearby art studio in a rustic cabin he built from salvaged lumber.

"I have the discipline to come out here and work all day, every day," Sexton says. "I just don't always have the time."

Inside the studio, the focal point is Sexton's two-year work-in-progress, a 6-foot-by-7-foot oil painting depicting his neighbors, the Guin brothers, dressed in mountain man garb and posing with a table of

objects—deer skulls, turtle shells, grapefruits—that are meaningful to their rural Florida lives.

Sexton keeps a journal and sketchbook with him at all times to be ready when inspiration strikes. "When I'm running a tractor, chopping a field or planting, if I'm open to the things I'm seeing, it makes a wonderful basis for a painting," he says.

The inspiration is effective, says Currie McCullough, curator of the 53 Cannon Street Gallery in Charleston, S.C., where about a dozen pieces of Sexton's art are on permanent display. "Sexton's paintings derive from his firsthand knowledge of life and death," McCullough says, "subjects constantly present in the everyday existence of a cattleman."

As a cattleman, Sexton works mostly solo. He takes care of his ranch alone, except for the five or six times a year when cows must be moved to greener pastures or gathered for sale, necessitating the assistance of hired cowboys.

"I put in all the posts," he says. "I fix all the fences. I pull all the calves. Everything."

Sexton, whose father and grandfather also raised cattle on the ranch, gets enormous satisfaction from the ranching lifestyle. "This is a real life," he says. "We cherish it every day."

Indeed, Sexton is doing his best to preserve a life that is fast disappearing. He's not sure if his son Michael wants to take over the ranch someday. And his daughter, Julia, 23, plans a career in interior design. Sexton's main concern is developers who are frantically snapping up coastal property and building high-priced condominiums. Sexton's land is just five miles inland from the beach.

"I've had people yell land prices across the ditch thinking I'm going to jump on it," he says. "But isn't happiness worth millions of dollars? That's what I want."

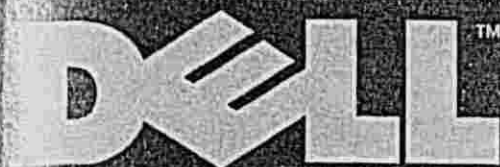
That, and maybe a little more time to paint. ★

M.B. Roberts is a writer in Hollywood, Fla.



Sexton paints in a cabin on his 600-acre Florida ranch.





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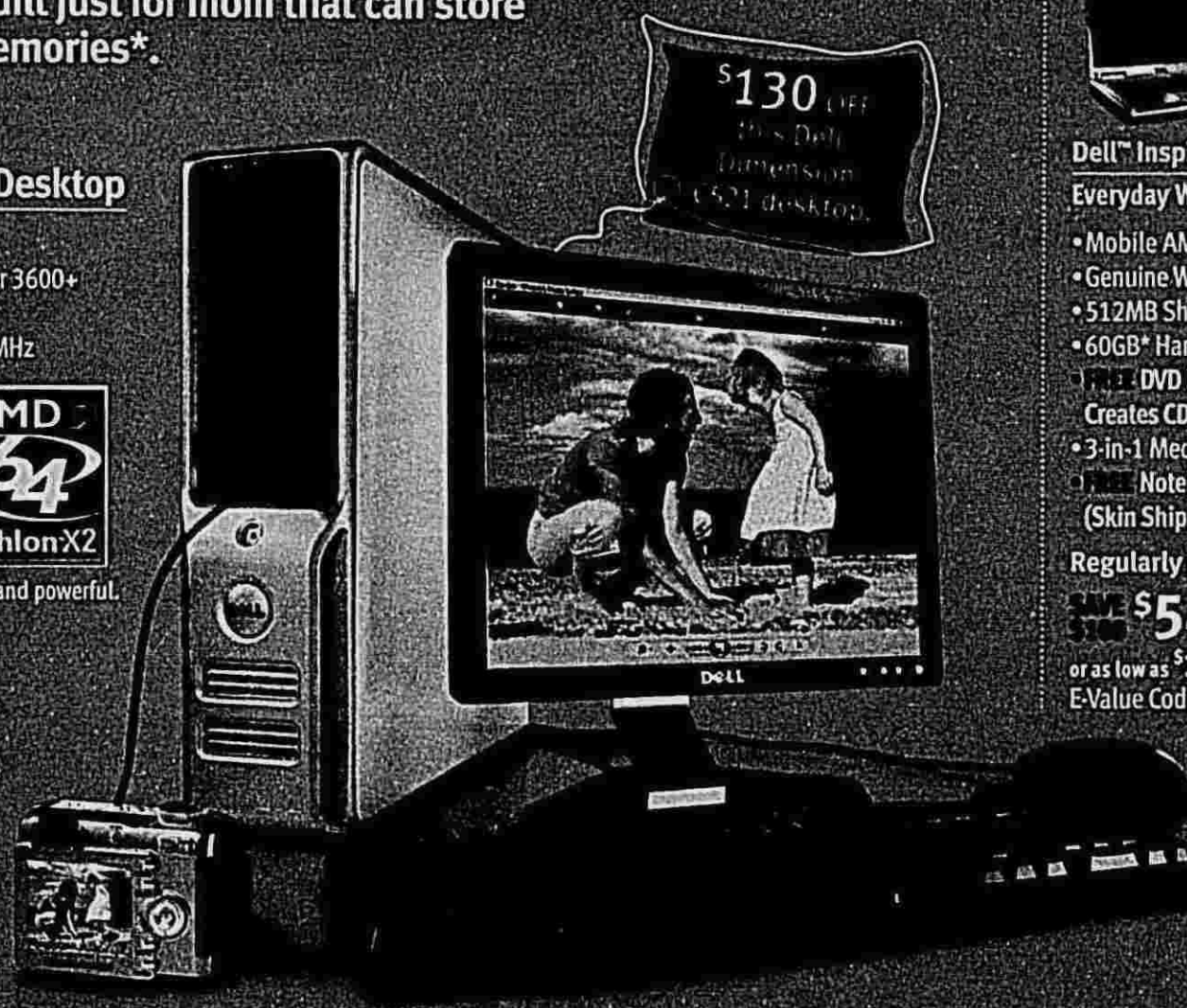


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